

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 10, 2002. Claims 1-27 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 13-27 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 26, and 27 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. RE37,031 (*Nishiwaki*).

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a printing system in which a host device and a printer are connected via a communication medium, and a print job produced in the host device is transferred to the printer to execute printing. The printing system includes memory means, requisition means, retrieval means, and information means. Paper output place information, regarding the paper output place used in the print job, is registered in the memory means. The requisition means issues a request for paper output place information, enabling a user to specify a paper output place used in a designated print job according to an instruction from the user. The retrieval means retrieves the paper output place information for the designated print job from the memory means, and the information means conveys the paper output place information for the designated print job, obtained by the retrieval means, to the user, in response to issue of the request by the requisition means.

Among other important features of Claim 1 are, that the requisition means issues a request for paper output place information, enabling a user to specify a paper output place used in a designated print job according to an instruction by the user, and that

the information means informs the user of the paper output place information on the designated print job, obtained by the retrieval means, in response to the request by the requisition means. That is, it is possible to notify a user of information which enables the user to specify the paper output place used in the user's designated print job, and also to clearly notify the user of information concerning which paper output place is used in the user's designated print job. By virtue of these features, it is possible to prevent the inconvenience of information not desired by the user being automatically sent to the user based on a determination made by the printer. Accordingly, it is possible to reduce useless communication traffic by preventing needless data being exchanged in the printing system.

Nishiwaki, as understood by Applicant, relates to a printer which has a function of locking bins containing printouts, so that the security of the printed-out material can be protected. *Nishiwaki* teaches that for the security of printouts, a bin can be locked, if a user wishes, thus enabling users of the computers 2 connected to the network to share the printer 6, yet still protect the security of their respective printouts. In the *Nishiwaki* system, the printer transmits an ID and personal identification number of the selected bin 23 to the host either before the printer unit 7 sends the lock instruction, or along with the message indicating the end of printing-out (column 7, lines 1-8). That is, *Nishiwaki* transmits ID information, not requested or desired by the user, to the host, increasing needless data being exchanged in the printing system. This additional communication traffic decreases the efficiency and productivity of the entire printing system.

However, nothing has been found in *Nishiwaki* that teaches or suggests requisition means issuing a request of paper output place information, enabling a user to specify a paper output place used in a designated print job, according to an instruction by the user, and information means informing the user of paper output place information on

the designated print job, obtained by the retrieval means, in response to the request by the requisition means, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is allowable over *Nishiwaki*.

Independent Claims 5 and 9 are method and computer-readable memory medium claims, respectively, corresponding to system Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that new independent Claims 19, 26, and 27 are in condition for allowance for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 13 is a method for controlling a printing system which includes a printer having a print unit for performing a print process of a print job and plural sheet storage units. The method includes a request step and a notification step. In the request step is issued a request for storage unit information, enabling a user to specify the sheet storage unit used for a designated print job, designated based on a user's operation, according to an instruction from the user. In the notification step, the user is notified of the storage unit specifying information, corresponding to the designated print job, in response to the request in the request step.

By virtue of these two steps, the user is notified of storage unit information, allowing the user to specify the paper output place to be used by the designated print job, and the user is notified as to which sheet storage unit is used by the designated print job.

Accordingly, the method recited in Claim 13 makes it possible to prevent information not desired by the user from being transmitted to the user based on a judgment mark at the printer itself. Thus, it is possible to reduce communication traffic by preventing needless data being exchanged in the printing system.

As explained above, in the *Nishiwaki* system, the printer transmits the ID and personal identification number of the selected bin 23 to the host either before the printer unit 7 sends the lock instruction, or along with the message indicating the end of printing-out. That is, *Nishiwaki* transmits ID information, not requested or desired by the user, to the host, increasing needless data being exchanged in the printing system. This additional communication traffic decreases the efficiency and productivity of the entire printing system.

However, nothing has been found in *Nishiwaki* that teaches or suggests issuing a request for storage unit information, enabling a user to specify the sheet storage unit used for a designated print job according to an instruction from the user, much less notifying a user of such storage unit specifying information corresponding to the designated print job, in response to such a request, as recited in Claim 13. Accordingly, Claim 13 also is deemed clearly allowable over *Nishiwaki*.

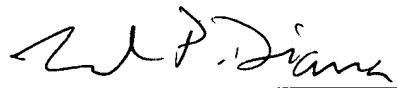
Independent Claim 26 is a system claim corresponding to method Claim 13, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 13.

Independent Claim 27 is directed to a method for controlling a printing system which includes similar features to those above in connection with Claims 1 and 13. Accordingly, Claim 27 is believed to be patentable for reasons substantially similar as those discussed above in connection with Claims 1 and 13.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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